Amendment to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

        Claims 1-39 (cancelled).

        40.   (Currently amended) A method for facilitating part qualification functions in a
communications network environment, comprising:

        creating a commodity template for a commodity, said commodity associated with a
supplier part, comprising:

        entering requirements data for qualifying said commodity;

        selecting at least one database in a part qualification repository for storing said
requirements data, said part qualification repository comprising:

                a parts database receiving information from a commercial parts database;

                a technology survey database;

                a quality information network database;

                an archives database; and

                a system testing database;

        assigning a default viewing tool for qualifying said commodity based upon said at least one
database selected;

        establishing access restrictions operable for restricting and authorizing viewing and editing
capabilities associated with said commodity template;

        wherein said requirements data stored in databases associated with said part qualification
repository are shared among said databases;

        the method further comprising establishing a detailed qualification plan via said part
qualification plan template, comprising:

                entering a technology qualification name associated with said commodity;

                receiving a list of suppliers associated with said technology qualification name;

                selecting a supplier from said list; and

entering qualification data for said detailed qualification plan, said qualification data comprising:

a plurality of tasks;

individual or entity responsible for said detailed qualification plan;

due dates associated with said detailed qualification plan; and

status information associated with said detailed qualification plan;

wherein the method further comprises viewing a status screen for a supplier part, said status screen comprising:

a description of qualification data associated with said supplier part;

a test message related to said supplier part qualification data;

a status box indicating approval status;

a recommended repository for said qualification data; and

a description of said supplier part, said description referencing said supplier part by supplier part name and by a part name used by an enterprise that is qualifying said supplier part.

41.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said part qualification plan template comprises:

requirements data operable for qualifying said commodity;

at least one proposed database in said part qualification repository for storing said requirements data;

an assigned default viewing tool for accessing said requirements data, said assigned default viewing tool selectable based on said at least one proposed database;

a text message field, said text message field operable for explaining qualification data and for selecting a reference document for viewing;

an access permissions structure; and

a plan framework comprising:

a plurality of tasks;

individual or entity responsible for said plurality of tasks; and

due dates associated with said plurality of tasks;

wherein said qualification data is received from at least one of:

a development entity;

a supplier;

at least one of said databases associated with said part qualification repository; and

a technology engineer.

42.   (Cancelled)

43.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 40 [[42]], further comprising:

updating said detailed qualification plan with data specific to said supplier part;

analyzing said data, comprising:

selecting and viewing a detailed qualification plan associated with a supplier for a specified technology;

running reports against detailed qualification plans for suppliers associated with said specified technology and viewing said reports;

qualifying said supplier part based on said analyzing said data;

wherein said updating said detailed qualification plan comprises obtaining said data specific to said supplier part from at least one of:

a supplier;

at least one of said databases associated with said part qualification repository; and

a technology engineer.

44.   (Cancelled)

45.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said parts database stores a parts index, said parts index relating part numbers established by an enterprise qualifying a supplier part to part numbers used by a supplier being qualified.

46.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said technology survey database stores information relating to at least one new technology, said information provided by at least one of:

a development individual for an enterprise that is qualifying suppliers;

an engineering individual for said enterprise that is qualifying suppliers; and

an existing or prospective supplier associated with said at least one new technology.

47.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said quality information network database stores:

audit data related to a supplier;

standardized audit forms;

audit reports; and

auditing procedures.

48.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said archives database stores part qualification plans that are no longer active.

49.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein said system testing database stores results of system testing specific to a particular corporate division of an enterprise that is qualifying suppliers.

50.   (Currently amended) A system for facilitating part qualification functions in a communications network environment, comprising:

a host system including a web server, an applications server, and a database server;

a part qualification repository in communication with said host system, said part qualification repository storing:

a parts database receiving information extracted from a commercial parts database;

a technology survey database;

a quality information network database;

an archives database; and

a system testing database; and

at least one workstation in communication with said host system; and

a parts qualification software executing on said host system;

a part qualification plan template created by said parts qualification software, said part qualification plan template associated with a commodity;

wherein said part qualification plan template comprises:

requirements data operable for qualifying said commodity;

at least one proposed database in said part qualification repository for storing said requirements data;

an assigned default viewing tool for accessing said requirements data, said assigned default viewing tool selectable based on said at least one proposed database;

a text message field, said text message field operable for explaining qualification data and for selecting a reference document for viewing; and

an access permissions structure;

wherein the system further comprises a status screen associated with a supplier part, said status screen comprising:

a description of qualification data associated with said supplier part;

a test message related to said supplier part qualification data;

a status box indicating approval status;

a recommended repository for said qualification data; and

a description of said supplier part, said description referencing said supplier part by supplier part name and by a part name used by an enterprise that is qualifying said supplier part.

51.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 50 wherein said part qualification plan template further comprises a plan framework comprising:

a plurality of tasks;

individual or entity responsible for said plurality of tasks; and

due dates associated with said plurality of tasks.

52.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said qualification data is received from at least one of:

a supplier;

at least one of said databases associated with said part qualification repository; and

a technology engineer.

53.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, further comprising a detailed qualification plan created via said part qualification plan template, comprising:

a technology qualification name associated with said commodity;

a supplier associated with said technology qualification name; and

qualification data for said detailed qualification plan, said qualification data comprising:

a plurality of tasks;

individual or entity responsible for said detailed qualification plan;

due dates associated with said detailed qualification plan; and

status information associated with said detailed qualification plan.

54.   (Cancelled)

55.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 50 [[54]], wherein said text message is viewable by at least one of:

a document link; and

a hypertext link.

56. (Currently amended) The system of claim 50 [[54]], wherein said text message includes at least one of:

a file name; and

a comment.

57. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said parts database stores a parts index, said parts index relating part numbers established by an enterprise qualifying a supplier part to part numbers used by a supplier being qualified.

58. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said technology survey database stores information relating to at least one new technology, said information provided by at least one of:

a development individual for an enterprise that is qualifying suppliers;

an engineering individual for said enterprise that is qualifying suppliers; and

an existing or prospective supplier associated with said at least one new technology.

59. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said quality information network database stores:

audit data related to a supplier;

standardized audit forms;

audit reports; and

auditing procedures.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said archives database stores part qualification plans that are no longer active.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 50, wherein said system testing database stores results of system testing specific to a particular corporate division of an enterprise that is qualifying suppliers.

62. (Currently amended) A storage medium encoded with machine readable computer program code for facilitating part qualification functions in a communications network environment, the storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method comprising:

creating a commodity template for a commodity, said commodity associated with a supplier part, comprising:

entering requirements data for qualifying said commodity;

selecting at least one database in a part qualification repository for storing said requirements data, said part qualification repository comprising:

a parts database receiving information from a commercial parts database;

a technology survey database;

a quality information network database;

an archives database; and

a system testing database;

assigning a default viewing tool for qualifying said commodity based upon said at least one database selected;

establishing access restrictions operable for restricting and authorizing viewing and editing capabilities associated with said commodity template;

wherein said requirements data stored in databases associated with said part qualification repository are shared among said databases;

wherein the method further comprises:

establishing a detailed qualification plan via said part qualification plan template, comprising:

entering a technology qualification name associated with said commodity;

receiving a list of suppliers associated with said technology qualification name;

selecting a supplier from said list; and

entering qualification data for said detailed qualification plan, said qualification data comprising:

a plurality of tasks;

individual or entity responsible for said detailed qualification plan;

due dates associated with said detailed qualification plan; and

status information associated with said detailed qualification plan;

wherein the method further comprises viewing a status screen for a supplier part, said status screen comprising:

a description of qualification data associated with said supplier part;

a test message related to said supplier part qualification data;

a status box indicating approval status;

a recommended repository for said qualification data; and

a description of said supplier part, said description referencing said supplier part by supplier part name and by a part name used by an enterprise that is qualifying said supplier part.

63.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 62, wherein said part qualification plan template comprises:

requirements data operable for qualifying said commodity;

at least one proposed database in said part qualification repository for storing said requirements data;

an assigned default viewing tool for accessing said requirements data, said assigned default viewing tool selectable based on said at least one proposed database;

a text message field, said text message field operable for explaining qualification data and for selecting a reference document for viewing;

an access permissions structure; and

a plan framework comprising:

a plurality of tasks;

individual or entity responsible for said plurality of tasks; and

due dates associated with said plurality of tasks;

wherein said qualification data is received from at least one of:

a development entity;

a supplier;

at least one of said databases associated with said part qualification repository; and

a technology engineer.

64.   (Cancelled)

65.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 63, further comprising instructions for causing said computer to implement:

updating said detailed qualification plan with data specific to said supplier part;

analyzing said data, comprising:

selecting and viewing a detailed qualification plan associated with a supplier for a specified technology;

running reports against detailed qualification plans for suppliers associated with said specified technology and viewing said reports;

qualifying said supplier part based on said analyzing said data;

wherein said updating said detailed qualification plan comprises obtaining said data specific to said supplier part from at least one of:

a supplier;

at least one of said databases associated with said part qualification repository; and

a technology engineer.

66.   (Cancelled)

67.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 62, wherein said parts database stores a parts index, said parts index relating part numbers established by an enterprise qualifying a supplier part to part numbers used by a supplier being qualified.

68.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 62, wherein said technology survey database stores information relating to at least one new technology, said information provided by at least one of:

a development individual for an enterprise that is qualifying suppliers;

an engineering individual for said enterprise that is qualifying suppliers; and

an existing or prospective supplier associated with said at least one new technology.

69.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 62, wherein said quality information network database stores:

audit data related to a supplier;

standardized audit forms;

audit reports; and

auditing procedures.

70.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 62, wherein said archives database stores part qualification plans that are no longer active.

71.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 62, wherein said system testing database stores results of system testing specific to a particular corporate division of an enterprise that is qualifying suppliers.